This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Wingless-type MMTV integration site family member 16B (WNT16B)	Human tissue and mouse studies suggest inhibiting stromal WNT16B could help treat cancer. In tissue samples isolated from patients with breast, ovarian or prostate cancer treated with chemotherapy, WNT16B expression was greater in the stroma than in tissues isolated from untreated patients. In patients with prostate cancer undergoing chemotherapy, increased levels of stromal WNT16B were associated with increased likelihood of cancer recurrence ($p=0.04$). In xenograft mice, the genotoxic chemotherapy drug mitoxantrone decreased the size of tumors comprised of prostate cancer cells plus normal fibroblasts but not prostate cancer cells plus WNT16B-expressing fibroblasts. Next steps include developing WNT16B antibodies as adjuncts to genotoxic therapies. SciBX 5(34); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.898 Published online Aug. 30, 2012	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Sun, Y. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Aug. 5, 2012; doi:10.1038/nm.2890 Contact: Peter S. Nelson, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, Wash. e-mail: pnelson@fhcrc.org